

59. (New) The audio entertainment system of claim 45, wherein the user interface system further includes a mute button.

60. (New) The audio entertainment system of claim 45, wherein the non-volatile random-access storage system is substantially permanently affixed inside the chassis.

61. (New) The audio entertainment system of claim 45, further comprising:
at least one audio input comprised in or located on the chassis for receiving input audio information.

REMARKS

Applicant is in receipt of the Office Action mailed November 30, 2000. Claim 1 has been amended and claims 43-61 have been added. Therefore, claims 1, 3, 29, 30, 35, and 37-61 are pending.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections:

Claim 1, 3, 29, 30, 35, and 37-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The amendment at issue in claim 1 recites: "wherein the user interface system includes a display positioned on the front side of the chassis, wherein the display is operable to display substantially only status information of the system and information regarding the audio information stored in the storage system." Support for this amendment is found in Fig. 1, element 11, and page 15, lines 15-29. As described in the specification, "[a]phanumeric display 11 is used to indicate the status of the system, and

to provide numerical and textual information about recordings contained in the system which may be selected, or are about to be played.” “Display 11 may be, for example, the DMC-40457NY-LY by Optrex America, Inc., Duluth, GA.”

Applicant notes that claims 3, 29, 30, and 35 were included in the application as originally filed, and thus they are self-supporting. However, Applicant further notes that support for these claims can be found in the specification at page 18, lines 2-3, page 19, lines 19-24, and page 23, lines 15-30. ✓

With respect to claims 37-42, support for these amendments can be found in Fig. 1, element 11, and page 15, lines 15-29. More specific support is provided as follows.

Claim 37 recites, “wherein the status information includes information regarding a current musical piece being played.” Support for this claim is found in the example of Fig. 1 and on page 15, where the system is currently playing (as indicated by the description “playing”) a track. In the example, 2 minutes and 1 second of the 4 minute, 12 second long track have played. Applicant asserts that this is status information regarding a current musical piece being played. -

Claim 38 recites, “wherein the status information includes a current time.” Support for this claim is found in the example of Fig. 1 and on page 15, where the time displayed is “12:34:56 pm.” The Office Action stated that it was “not clear how to interpret such, hrs., minutes, month, yr, century, nor which calendar system.” Applicant asserts that “12:34:56 pm” is a time that occurs daily in the calendar system in use in this country, and that numerous persons of skill in the art have managed to display times corresponding to this calendar system on stereo system components. In light of this, Applicant asserts that one of skill in the art could indeed find that the inventor had possession of the claimed display at the time the invention was filed. ↵

Claim 39 recites, “the display is operable to display information regarding a current musical piece being played.” Support for this claim is found in the example of

Fig. 1 and on page 15, where the system is currently playing (as indicated by the description “playing”) a track. In the example, 2 minutes and 1 second of the 4 minute, 12 second long track have played, as indicated by the status information on display 11.

Claim 40 recites, “the information regarding the audio information stored in the storage system comprises information regarding musical pieces currently stored in the storage system.” This claim is supported by the example shown in Fig. 1 and on page 15, where the system is currently storing the Rush album “Power Widows.” At least two tracks from this album, “Grand Designs” and “The Big Money” are stored in the system, as displayed on the example display.

Claim 41 recites, “wherein the audio entertainment system is substantially only operable for storage and playback of musical pieces.” Applicant asserts that this claim is supported throughout the specification. In the entirety of the disclosure, the claimed invention is described in terms of being operable for the storage and playback of musical pieces.

Claim 42 recites, “wherein the display has an appearance which approximates standard audio equipment.” As shown in Fig. 1, the display 11 has an appearance that approximates the appearance of displays included with other standard audio equipment such as tuners, tape decks, cd players, etc. As stated at page 15, lines 11-12, “the audio entertainment system 5 is housed in a rectangular shaped chassis of the typical size and appearance found in home entertainment centers.” ✓

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections:

Claims 1, 37, 38 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over either Capps et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,204,969) (hereinafter “Capps”), Rossmere et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,508,940) (hereinafter “Rossmere”), or Taguchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,563,866) (hereinafter “Taguchi”), each further considered with either Official Notice or

Ishii et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,396,340) (hereinafter "Ishii"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

While the cited art in Capps, Rossmere, and Taguchi does include a "display," none of these references teach or suggest a display operable to display substantially only status information of the system and information regarding the audio information stored in the storage system. Instead, these references describe monitors used with personal computer system displays. Without a display configured to display more than substantially only status information and information regarding stored audio information, it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to interact with the computer systems disclosed in the cited art. For example, without various icons or text menus corresponding to software programs stored on a computer system, it would be difficult for the user to even access the programs necessary to play or edit audio files as disclosed in Capps, Rossmere, and Taguchi. Furthermore, typical computer systems are operable to display much more than "substantially only status information... and information regarding the audio information stored in the storage system" because typical computer systems have much more functionality than a stereo system component designed for storing, accessing, and playing audio information. Applicant can find no reason why these systems in the cited art are any different, nor does the Office Action provide such a reason.

Nevertheless, the Office Action claims that it would be obvious to modify the computer systems taught in Capps, Rossmere, and Taguchi to have displays similar to the display shown in Ishii. Ishii is an optical disc reproducing apparatus, not a computer system, so the display used to access the disc reproducing apparatus displays limited information that relates to the limited functions available in the apparatus. The Office Action states that it "would have been obvious... to modify the above systems," the "motivation being to display only that information which the user is interested in, or alternatively, to reduce cost by having less display elements/complexity." The assertion that the computer systems of Capps, Rossmere, and Taguchi might sometimes display "only that information which the user is interested in" does not change the fact that the computer systems of Capps, Rossmere, and Taguchi are *operable* to display much more information

than this. Furthermore, if, as the Office Action suggests, the systems in Capps, Rossmere, and Taguchi were modified to "reduce cost by having less display elements/complexity" so that the displays were operable to display substantially only status information and information regarding audio information," a great deal of the functionality of these systems would be rendered inaccessible. For example, using such a display with Capps would prevent users from accessing print menus, word processing programs, web browsers, email programs, or the many other applications that users typically expect to be able to access in their personal computer systems. Accordingly, it is doubtful that the costs saved by reducing the complexity of display would make a mostly-inaccessible computer system desirable. Thus, there is no motivation to modify the display of a multi-purpose computer system to be like the display of a limited-purpose device such as Ishii's disc reproducing apparatus. Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, the cited art fails to teach or suggest claim 1. Since claims 3, 29, 30, 35, and 37-44 depend from claim 1, they too are patentable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Claim 1 also recites: "the audio entertainment system has an appearance which approximates standard audio equipment." This is also made clear elsewhere in the claim, such as the chassis element and the "user interface system for controlling the audio entertainment system, wherein the user interface system includes a display positioned on the front side of the chassis." This is certainly different than the systems taught by the Capps, Rossmere, and Taguchi references cited by the Examiner. Each of these systems describes a general purpose computer system that does not appear as "standard audio equipment" and does not include the above structure. Rather, the computer systems described in these patents have all of the attendant problems of general purpose computer systems, including lengthy boot procedures and a display intended to display an operating system and the user interface for a number of different applications. These systems do not look and feel like standard audio equipment, and hence are much less desirable and useable as audio equipment. Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is the first disclosure of an audio entertainment system that includes a non-removable, non-volatile random-access storage system for storing audio or music and which is also comprised in a standard

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audio entertainment system form factor. Thus, Applicant submits that the present claims are in condition for allowance.

New Claims

Applicant submits new independent claim 45 and dependent claims 46-61. Applicant submits that new independent claim 45 is allowable for the reasons given above. For example, independent claim 45 recites: “the audio entertainment system has an appearance which approximates standard audio equipment.” As discussed above, none of the cited art teaches or suggests such an audio entertainment system.

CONCLUSION

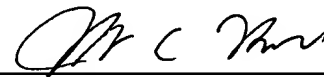
In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submits the application is now in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Conley, Rose, & Tayon, P.C. Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5399-00100/JCH.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

- ☒ Return Receipt Postcard
- ☐ Extension of Time

Respectfully submitted,



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Claim 1 with changes highlighted:

1. (Twice Amended) An audio entertainment system for storing and playing audio information, comprising:

a chassis for housing electrical components, wherein the chassis comprises a front side;

at least one audio input comprised in or located on the chassis for receiving input audio information;

at least one audio output comprised in or located on the chassis for generating signals;

a non-removable, non-volatile random-access storage system comprised in the chassis for storing audio information, wherein the non-volatile random-access storage system is rewritable, wherein the non-volatile random-access storage system is operable to receive and store the input audio information from the at least one audio input, wherein the non-volatile random-access storage system is operable to provide output audio information to the at least one audio output, wherein the non-volatile random-access storage system is substantially permanently affixed inside the chassis;

a user interface system for controlling the audio entertainment system, wherein the user interface system includes a display positioned on the front side of the chassis, wherein the display is operable to display substantially only status information of the system and information regarding the audio information stored in the storage system; and

a user interface control system coupled to receive user input from the user interface system, wherein the user interface control system is coupled to one or more of the non-volatile random-access storage system, the at least one audio input, and the at least one audio output, wherein the user interface control system operates to control one or more of the non-volatile random-access storage system, the at least one audio input, and the at least one audio output in response to user input received from the user interface system;

wherein the non-volatile random-access storage system is operable to store audio information corresponding to a plurality of musical pieces;

wherein the user interface system is adapted to receive user input to select one or more musical pieces for audio presentation;

wherein the user interface control system is operable to receive said user input and control the non-volatile random-access storage system to provide corresponding output audio information stored on the non-volatile random-access storage system to the at least one audio output for audio presentation;

wherein the audio entertainment system has an appearance which approximates standard audio equipment.